



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

THE MESSENGER

FIRST WAUSAU UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

From the Pastor

by Pastor Rebecca Voss

Dear Wausau First UMC Family of Faith,

On Sunday, February 19, you made a historic and transformational vote! Your ballots unanimously affirmed, 63 to 0, to adopt a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was previously sent to all members in the mail. You made the decision that *being* a church is more important than managing a church building. You decided that the founders of our congregation and all who formed our faith would be pleased in how the legacy of First UMC can continue to be deepened for future generations in broader ways in Wausau. You have set a precedent that will likely be used as a model for congregations in Wisconsin and beyond, by Methodists and more.

Though we are grateful for “bricks and mortar” (or in our case, concrete and terrazzo), this vote allows us to concentrate more on ministry and mission. Our finances can focus on providing more meaningful worship, faith formation, and outreach. Our time can be more devoted to building better relationships with God, each other, and our community, instead of fixing an aging building. The question we need to ask ourselves now is whether we are equally committed to building up the church – Christ’s Body – as we have been in working on constructing and caring for our building over the past 60-some years.

Having Lent begin three days after this vote, I invite us to take these forty days to pray and deepen our understanding and commitment to building stronger relationships with Christ and one another. Some of this may happen as we go through our building’s treasures from the past together and figure out if, how, or where they should be used in the present. As we work through logistics like this, God is also helping us to rethink what “church” is. When we process and pray together, we will sense the Holy Spirit encouraging us to trust Christ more deeply, reminding us that we are entrusted as stewards not primarily of property, but of the well-being of all people who God deeply loves.

Gratefully,
Pastor Rebecca Borke Voss





Game Night!

Lots of fun and great food!!



"That was a pretty good sermon, Pastor Rebecca".



Valentine Gift Bags. Joan and Andy put these together for our PNC and CCC friends!



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

March Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Bruce Chopp | 14 Josie Higgins | 24 Maggie Schoenfeld |
| Mary Fischer | Kris Rybarczyk | 26 Bonnie Goertz |
| 2 John Machek | 15 Rob Perkins | 27 Tim Harvey |
| 4 Lisa Fons | 17 Diane Zahn | 28 Sue Serrurier |
| 7 Natalia Quiros | Karli Johnson | Javier Quiros |
| 8 Judy Hoover | 18 London Larson | 29 Jen Marzu |
| 9 Jordyn Voss | Dan Marzu | 30 Morgan Borchardt |
| 10 Margaret Anderson | 20 Ann Chopp | 31 Barb Dinsmore |
| Oliver Homby | 21 Dan Maguire | Suzanne Gebhardt |

* Signifies a member who for health reasons cannot be at church regularly. We invite you this month to remember these members in your prayers.



LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

Learning to Live Inside Out

Lent 2023

Learning to Live Inside Out

Lent is commonly known as a forty-day season of reflection beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter. Observant people often practice fasting in some way, historically from certain foods and more currently from social media. As a spiritual discipline, fasting can be helpful in strengthening our souls. However, faith is not sustainable when we use it primarily as a self-improvement technique. Lent is a time to not only be changed on the inside, but to live a transformational life of love in our relationships. Let's come together for worship, ministry, and mission as we learn to live inside out this Lent!

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 2/22 Ash Wednesday | Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corin. 5:20b-6:10, Matt 6:1-6,16-21 |
| 2/26 If You Fall Down | Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corin. 5:20b-6:10, Matt 6:1-6,16-21 |
| 3/5 Go from Your Country | Psalm 95, Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-42 |
| 3/12 Give Me Water | Psalm 95, Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-42 |
| 3/19 In the Presence | Psalm 23, 1 Samuel 16:1-13, John 9:1-41 |
| 3/26 Who Could Stand | Psalm 130, Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:1-45 |

Random Thoughts

by Mike Zahn March 2023

Ministry Update

Hi everyone! I thought it would be good to give you an update of where I am with my progress toward becoming a Licensed Local Pastor (LLP). Today I had a three hour interview to complete a required Psychological Assessment. Then in a few weeks, there will be an interview with our District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM). In the meantime, First Wausau's SPRC and Special Charge Conference (Ministries Council) must approve me as a certified candidate. Assuming all these events fall into place, Licensing School in Iowa, April 29 through May 5, will be next. The final hurdle would then be approval at the Wisconsin Annual Conference in June.

Things are going great in Merrill and Gleason; we're off to a good start and I look forward to what's going to be the next step for the Body of Christ there.

I miss you all, and am excited about the things happening in Wausau with the church building, along with 10 new members joining! It is a huge blessing to me to be sent forth from First Wausau Downtown United Methodist Church and I will always treasure my time there. Grace, mercy and peace to you!



Savvy Seniors will be meeting on Monday March 6th at The Palms Restaurant in Schofield. This is a social group open to singles & couples over 55. We would love to have you join us. Any questions, call Vicki Nowaczek at 715-571-3009. Thank you.



Missions News

Dick Rayborn, Missions Committee.

On Sunday, March 12, the GOOD NEWS PROJECT will be at our coffee hour to provide information about their important work in our community and the world.

Good News Project is a nonprofit organization that runs three unique programs to serve others.

Their Health Equipment Lending Program (HELP) provides the opportunity for anyone to donate or borrow durable medical equipment for short term use.

Their e-CYCLE program is a place to safely recycle outdated electronics and runs every Friday from 9-4.

And they also offer the opportunity to serve in mission through International Service Trips to the West Indies.

Stop by their table at coffee hour on Sunday, March 12.

FUMC Wired

Website: firstmethodistwausau.org
with links to the weekly sermon
in text and podcast

facebook.com/WausauFUMC
youtube.com/@FirstWausauUMC

WiFi Network: FUMC Guest
password: fumcpbublic)

Phone: 715.842.2201



Note from Trustees and Finance Committee

Organ Repairs and Improvements

We have all enjoyed our wonderful church organ. It is a top-of-the-line instrument. It does require significant upkeep and repair at times. We recently incurred a cost of over \$55,000 to repair the organ by replacing failing leather stops with longer-lasting digital stops. **If anyone would like to make a special donation to help us pay for that expense, please send in payment and mark that it is for organ care donation.** We greatly appreciate help in funding this large expense for a great instrument that helps us worship in meaningful ways. If you have any questions about the organ or options for donations, please contact Martie Pahr in the church office.

Sanctuary Lighting Update

Similar to our organ, we will be incurring significant expenses for updating our Sanctuary suspended lights. We are grateful to find an electrical contractor (K & M) with successful experience in replacing the wiring and transitioning our custom sanctuary fixtures to better and brighter LED lighting along with other lighting repairs. This will cost about \$20,000.

If you'd like to make an extra donation to help defray this lighting cost, please send in a gift designated for "sanctuary lights". Thank you!



United
Women
in Faith

UWF News

United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) Upcoming Dates:

Wed., March 15th – First UMC Unit meeting (no separate Circle meetings are being held currently)

Saturday, April 15th – Social Action Day Zoom Presentation, 9 am to Noon CST: Faithful Climate Action. We will have a “watch party” at our church, to view the Zoom presentation as a group (Margaret Getzin is coordinating the gathering for that morning). More information to come.

Saturday, May 6th – UWF District Spring Retreat at Pine Lake Camp; 8:30am to 2:30pm. PRAYER- Conversations with God; Presenter is Julie Miehe. Find more information and the registration form in the Jubilate newsletter at <http://www.wisconsinumw.org/jubilate.html> Check with other UWF members to see who may be going, to car pool if possible.

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FYI: Another Women's Retreat option for Wisconsin women is scheduled for late April, the annual Spring Women's Retreat at Camp Lucerne. Wisconsin United Methodist Camps will hold this spring retreat for women, titled Baskets full of Blessings. This is a Church Camps event, not specifically UWF. Registration information can be found at the Wisconsin UM Camps website, at <https://wiumcamps.org/retreat/spring-womens-retreat> OR questions can be directed to the retreat leader, Bonnie Clement, at bonnieclement05@gmail.com. Notes from Trustees and Finance Committee

United Women in Faith Soup Sale

We will have a variety of homemade soups available for pick up on March 19th after worship. You can order via email to Margaret Getzin (margaretg202@gmail.com), or drop the form located on **Page 7 of this Messenger** off at the church, or call the church office and make your request.



Soap

UWF has been making detergent for the PNC for many years. If guests choose to take a jug of this detergent, it does not count as one of the chosen items. Many of you have been donating gallon jugs for this mission and we Thank You! However, we now have plenty of jugs and you do not need to bring any for the time being. If you would like to donate toward the supplies, talk to Sharon Gisselman or Barbara Ritchie.

Here is the simple recipe. Many of our members use this and it is safe for HD washers.

HOMEMADE DETERGENT

3 TBLS Borax
3 TBLS washing soda
2 TBLS Dawn dishwashing liquid
Put the ingredients into a gallon jug
Add 2 cups boiling water to the jug
Swish until everything is dissolved
Slowly add more water to make 1 gallon
use ½ cup per load

The PNC and CCC are also in need of paper grocery bags.

March 2023



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

First Wausau
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------------|---|
| 26 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary 12:30pm Confirmation Class, Wesley UMC | 27 7:00pm Ministries Council, B.K. Smith Room | 28 1:00pm ~2:30pm Prayer Shawl Group, Parlor 5:30pm Trustees, B.K. Smith | 1 5:45pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal | 2 8:00am AA, Room 101 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room | 3 Office Closed | 4 |
| 5 8:00am Worship, Chapel with Holy Communion 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary with Holy Communion 12:30pm Confirmation Class, Wesley UMC | 6 11:30am Savvy Seniors, The Palms, Schofield | 7 | 8 5:45pm Handbell Rehearsal 5:45pm Missions Team, Parlor 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal | 9 8:00am AA, Room 101 6:00pm Weeping Willows 4-H, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room | 10 Office Closed | 11 |
| 12 Daylight Savings Time Begins 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary 11:00am Good News Project Presentation 12:30pm Confirmation Class, Wesley UMC | 13 | 14 1:00pm ~3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet 7:00pm Finance Committee, BK Smith Room | 15 5:45pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal | 16 Joan Off?? 8:00am AA, Room 101 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room | 17 Office Closed | 18 |
| 19 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary 12:30pm Confirmation Class, Wesley UMC | 20 | 21 6:00pm SPRC, B.K. Smith | 22 5:45pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal | 23 8:00am AA, Room 101 | 24 Office Closed | 25 9:00am ~11:00am Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet |
| 26 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary 12:30pm Confirmation Class, Wesley UMC | 27 | 28 1:00pm ~2:30pm Prayer Shawl Group, Parlor 5:30pm Trustees, B.K. Smith | 29 5:45pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal | 30 8:00am AA, Room 101 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room | 31 Office Closed | 1 |

ORDER FORMS



Decorating the Church for Easter

Easter lilies will decorate our Sanctuary for the service on Easter, April 17th. If you would like to donate towards flowers, the cost is \$12 for a small plant and \$25 for a large plant.

Please fill out the form below with your check and mail or bring to the church office.

We must have orders in no later than **Monday, April 9th.**

Name:

Phone:

In Memory/Honor of: (circle one)

Total Donation: \$ _____
Small (\$12) or Large (\$25)

Make checks payable to:
First United Methodist Church
Memo line: *Easter flowers*



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith Soup Sale

We will have a variety of homemade soups available for pick up on March 19th after worship. Pre-order your choice of soups from the list below. You can order via email to Margaret Getzin (margaretg202@gmail.com), or drop the form off at the church or call the church office and make your request.

ORDER DEADLINE: March 12, 2023

Soup is sold chilled, by the quart-\$10.00/quart

- ☐ Chicken Noodle
- ☐ Minestrone
- ☐ Vegetable Beef w/egg noodles
- ☐ Split Pea (no ham)
- ☐ Split Pea w/ham
- ☐ Chicken w/vegetables (gluten free)

Pick up at the church on Sunday morning, March 19.
Need it delivered? Call Margaret at (715) 297-8531.

Name

Phone # or email

Payment enclosed _____
Will pay at pick up _____

Checks payable to: UMW

STAFF

- Pastor
- Faith Formation, Music Director
- Finance Director
- Secretary
- Building Engineer

Rebecca Voss rebecca@firstmethodistwausau.org
Martie Pahriss martie@firstmethodistwausau.org
Martie Pahriss martie@firstmethodistwausau.org
Joan Stroyny joan@firstmethodistwausau.org
Andy White

903 Third Street, Wausau, WI 54403
Office Hours: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Thursday
(715) 842-2201
www.firstmethodistwausau.org

THE MESSENGER

First United Methodist Church of Wausau
903 Third Street
Wausau, WI 54403

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission:

*Living as a community where
God is forming deeply committed
followers of Christ.*

WORSHIP IN MARCH

Sunday Worship Times: 8:00 am Chapel 10:00 am Sanctuary

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 -

Go from Your Country

Psalm 121, Genesis 12:1-4a, John 3:1-17

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 -

In the Presence

Psalm 23, 1 Samuel 16:1-13, John 9:1-41

SUNDAY MARCH 12 -

Give Me Water

Psalm 95, Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-42

SUNDAY MARCH 26 -

Who Could Stand

Psalm 130, Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:1-45